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| 10/520,025 | 01/30/2006 | John Turner | KINGC40668 | 9245 |
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| ALTMAN & MARTIN 6 BEACON ST, STE 600 BOSTON, MA 02108 | | | EXAMINER CHEN, YUAN L | |
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/520,025 | Applicant(s) TURNER, JOHN | |
| | Examiner Yuan L. Chen | Art Unit 4193 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 January 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 6-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 6-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 2, 7 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and to distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

With respect to Claims 2, 7 and 9, the word "it" at the end of each paragraph is unclear to represent which subject matter: the ram, the bed or the press. It appears that "it" is intended to refer to the bed, which has been treated as such for the remainder of this Office action.

Clarification and/or appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 4193

4. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson et al. (Patent No.: US 5749290) in view of Ball (Patent No.: US 6539855).

With respect to Claim 1, Johnson et al. teach in Fig. 1 and column 3 lines 20 – 25: a print-finishing press (10) comprising a bed (12) for receiving a workpiece (article engaged to 28), a ram (22) for effecting relative movement between the bed (12) and a press tool (18 or press head with the ram, see column 1 lines 35 -38) towards (lowering the ram) and away (lifting the ram) from each other, and control means for selectively pre-setting the ram to any of a number of predetermined levels (by the controller 46, also see column 4 lines 29 – 32).

Johnson et al.'s teaching meets all the limitations of Claim 1 except that the ram is controlled by a hydraulic pressure.

However Ball discloses in column 4 lines 63 – 67: using a hydraulic ram to control the velocity and pressure.

Therefore it would be obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify Johnson et al.'s printing-finishing press by using Ball's hydraulic ram so that a print-finishing press comprising a bed for receiving a workpiece, a hydraulic ram for effecting relative movement between the bed and a press tool towards and away from each other, and control means for selectively pre-setting the hydraulic pressure applied to the ram to any of a number of predetermined levels.

The modification/combination is for the purpose of fast and easy selective adjustment for precisely controlling the movement between the bed and the press toll.

The modification/combination meets all the limitations of Claim 1.

With respect to Claim 3, Johnson et al. teach in Fig. 1 and column 3 lines 20 – 29: a multi-station print-finishing press (10), comprising a plurality of press stations (A_1 - A_n), each press station comprising a ram (22) effecting relative movement between a press tool (18 or press head with the ram, see column 1 lines 35 -38) and a workpiece-receiving bed (12), conveying means for conveying a workpiece (article engaged to 28) from one station (A_{n-1}) to the next (A_n), and control means for controlling the operation of the press stations (by the controller 46, also see column 4 lines 29 – 32) and the conveying means to perform a sequence of operations on each work-piece (article, see column 3 lines 28 – 31).

Johnson et al.'s teaching meets all the limitations of Claim 3 except that the ram is a hydraulic ram.

However Ball discloses in column 4 lines 63 – 67: using a hydraulic ram to control the velocity and pressure.

Therefore it would be obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify Johnson et al.'s printing-finishing press by using Ball's hydraulic ram so that a multi-station print-finishing press, comprising a plurality of press stations, each press station comprising a hydraulic ram effecting relative movement between a press tool and a workpiece-receiving bed, conveying means for conveying a workpiece from one station to the next, and control means for controlling the operation of the press stations and the conveying means to perform a sequence of operations on each work-piece.

The modification/combination is for the purpose of fast and easy selective adjustment for precisely controlling the movement between the bed and the press tool.

The modification/combination meets all the limitations of Claim 3.

With respect to Claim 4, the modification/combination also meets the limitation of Claim 4 as disclosed in Fig. 1 and column 4 lines 7 – 15 of Johnson et al.: a multi-station press (10) wherein the conveying (transferring) means comprise, for each adjacent pair of press stations (A_{n-1} and A_n), gripping means (gripping means in column 4 line 8) for selectively gripping and releasing an edge of a workpiece (article), the gripping means being carried (in the direction of 24) by a reciprocating carrier (gripper bar 26), whereby the workpiece (article) is lifted from the first press station (A_{n-1}) of the pair and deposited (lowered) on to the next adjacent press station (A_n).

With respect to Claim 6, the modification/combination also meets the limitation of Claim 6 as disclosed in Fig. 1 and column 3 lines 20 - 33: a multi-station press (10) wherein the press station (A_n) is a print-finishing press comprising a bed (12) for receiving a workpiece (article engaged to 28), a hydraulic ram (22 modified by Ball) for effecting relative movement between the bed (12) and a press tool (18) towards and away from each other, and pressure control means for selectively pre-setting the hydraulic pressure (as taught by Ball in column 4 lines 63 – 69) applied to the ram (22) to any of a number of predetermined levels (by the controller 46, also see column 4 lines 29 – 32).

With respect to Claim 8, the modification/combination also meets the limitation of Claim 8 as disclosed in Fig. 1 and column 3 lines 20 - 33: a multi-station press (10), wherein the press station is a print-finishing press comprising a bed (12) for receiving a workpiece (article), a hydraulic ram (22 modified by Ball) for effecting relative movement between the bed (12) and a press tool (18) towards and away from each other, and pressure control means for selectively pre-setting the hydraulic pressure applied to the ram (22) to any of a number of predetermined levels (by the controller 46, also see column 4 lines 29 – 32).

5. Claim 2, 7 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson et al. and Ball, as applied to Claim 1 and 3 above, and further in view of Bender (Patent No.: US 5024135).

With respect to Claim 2, the modification/combination of Johnson et al. and Ball teaches the limitations of Claim 1 for the reason above.

The modification/combination meets all the limitations of Claim 2 except that the ram is mounted to urge the bed upwardly into engagement with the press tool fixedly mounted above it.

However Bender discloses in Fig. 1 and column 3 lines 34 – 40: a press (10) wherein the ram (16) is mounted to urge the bed (plate 22) upwardly (upper travel) into engagement with the press tool (30) fixedly mounted above the bed (plate 22 in column 3 lines 54 – 56).

Therefore it would be obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify the combination of Johnson et al. and Ball's printing-finishing press by using Bender's design so that the ram is mounted to urge the bed upwardly into engagement with the press tool fixedly mounted above the bed.

The modification/combination is for the purpose of providing an alternative arrangement for the movement between the bed and the press tool for different applications.

The modification/combination meets all the limitations of Claim 2.

With respect to Claims 7 and 9, the modification/combination above also meets the limitation of Claims 7 and 9: a multi-station press wherein the ram is mounted to urge the bed upwardly into engagement with the press tool fixedly mounted above the bed.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Reference Secor (Patent No.: US 6082257) discloses a dual head printing apparatus. Reference Carroll et al. (Patent No.: US 5479853) discloses a multi-station apparatus. Reference Night (Patent No.: US 4896523) discloses a transfer mechanism in a multi-station press. Reference Greenleaf (Patent No.: US 5479853) discloses a press ram. Reference Collins et al. (Patent No.: 3575106) discloses a hydraulic device for a vertical movement.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yuan L. Chen whose telephone number is 571-270-3799. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Long Nguyen can be reached on 571-272-1753. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Yc

/Long Nguyen/
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Art Unit 4193